HATIGARM SCANS

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JIANG YE

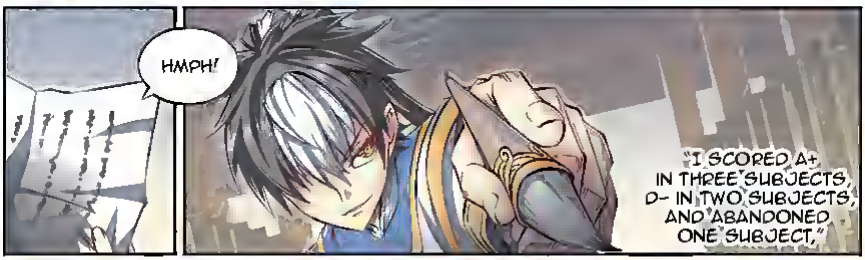
CHAPTER 34

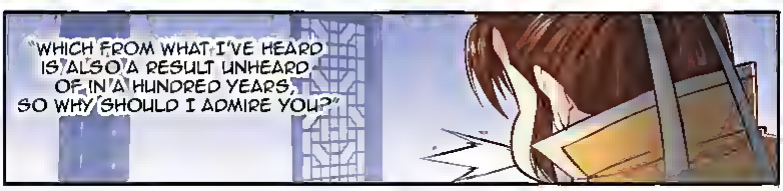
recruiting's open, please join our discord or contact us at our website

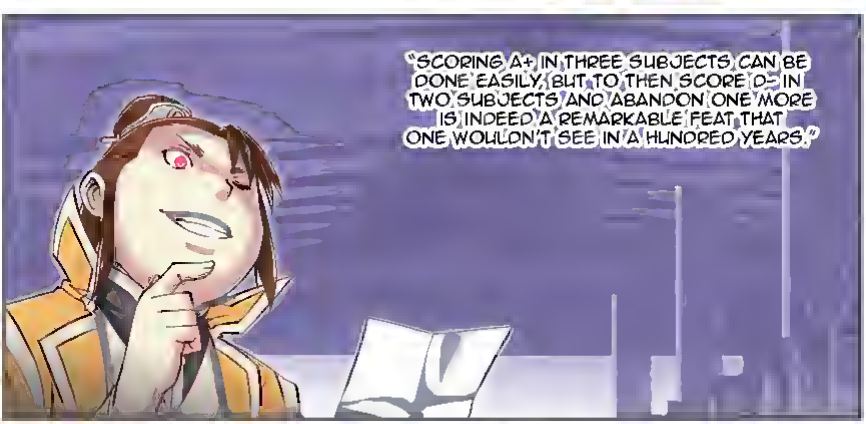
Chapter 34:
Lake shore,
Tea master
湖畔茶師
第三十四回

"THEN LET ME ASK YOU INSTEAD. WHO ARE YOU? HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE ACADEMY? DO YOU HAVE ANY PRETTY SISTERS?"
"FROM HOUSE C, OF THE ACADEMY, AND I ONLY HAVE A CHARCOAL-BLACK LITTLE SERVANT GIRL AT HOME. YOU?"
"MY NAME IS NING QUE, FROM WEI CITY."
"MY NAME IS CHEN PIPI, FROM XILING."
CHEH.
NO PRETTY SISTERS.
"AND THEN... THERE'S NO MORE 'AND THEN'..."
.....
"I HEARD THAT FIVE YEARS AGO, THERE WAS A CANDIDATE FROM XILING WHO OBTAINED A+ IN ALL SIX SUBJECTS DURING THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION. THE BEST RESULTS IN A HUNDRED YEARS. WOULD YOU BE THAT CANDIDATE?"

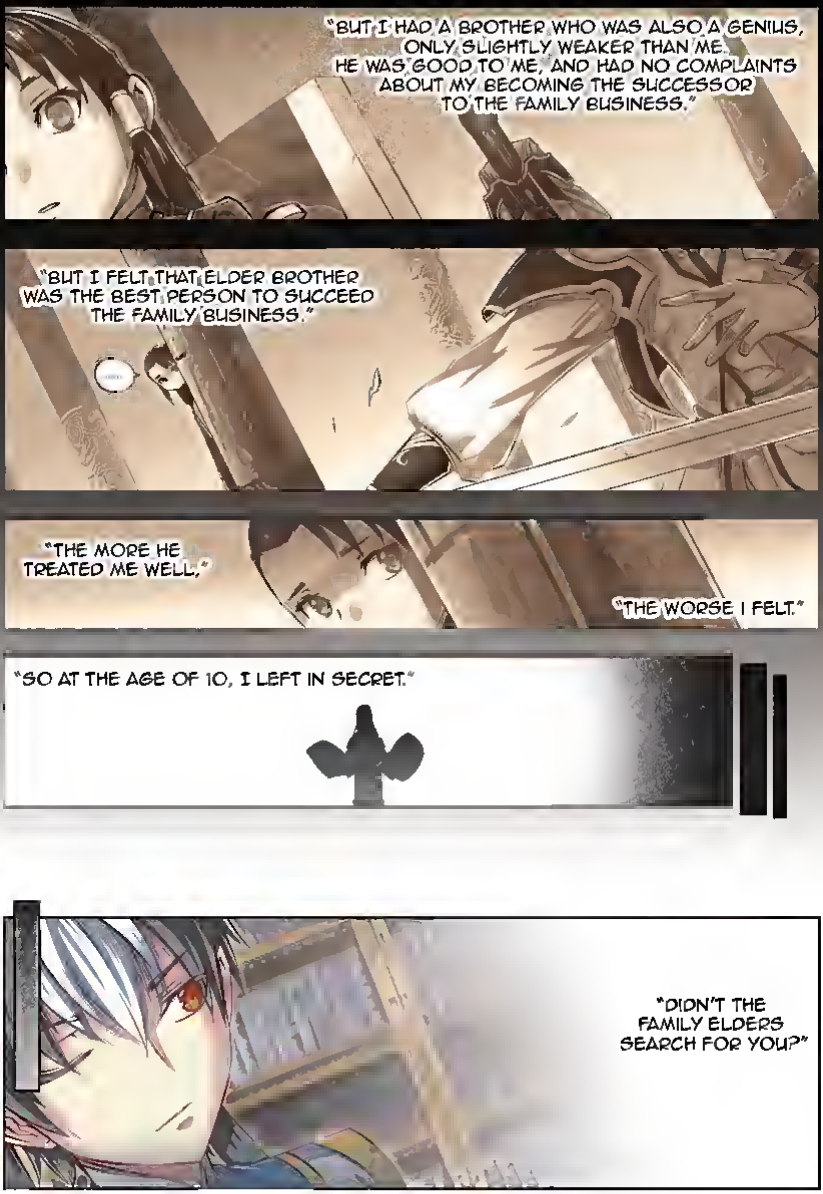
[Note: he's using a somewhat self-important version of "me".]



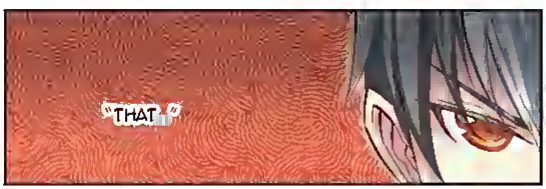



"SCORING A+ IN THREE SUBJECTS CAN BE DONE EASILY, BUT TO THEN SCORE D- IN TWO SUBJECTS AND ABANDON ONE MORE IS INDEED A REMARKABLE FEAT THAT ONE WOULDN'T SEE IN A HUNDRED YEARS."

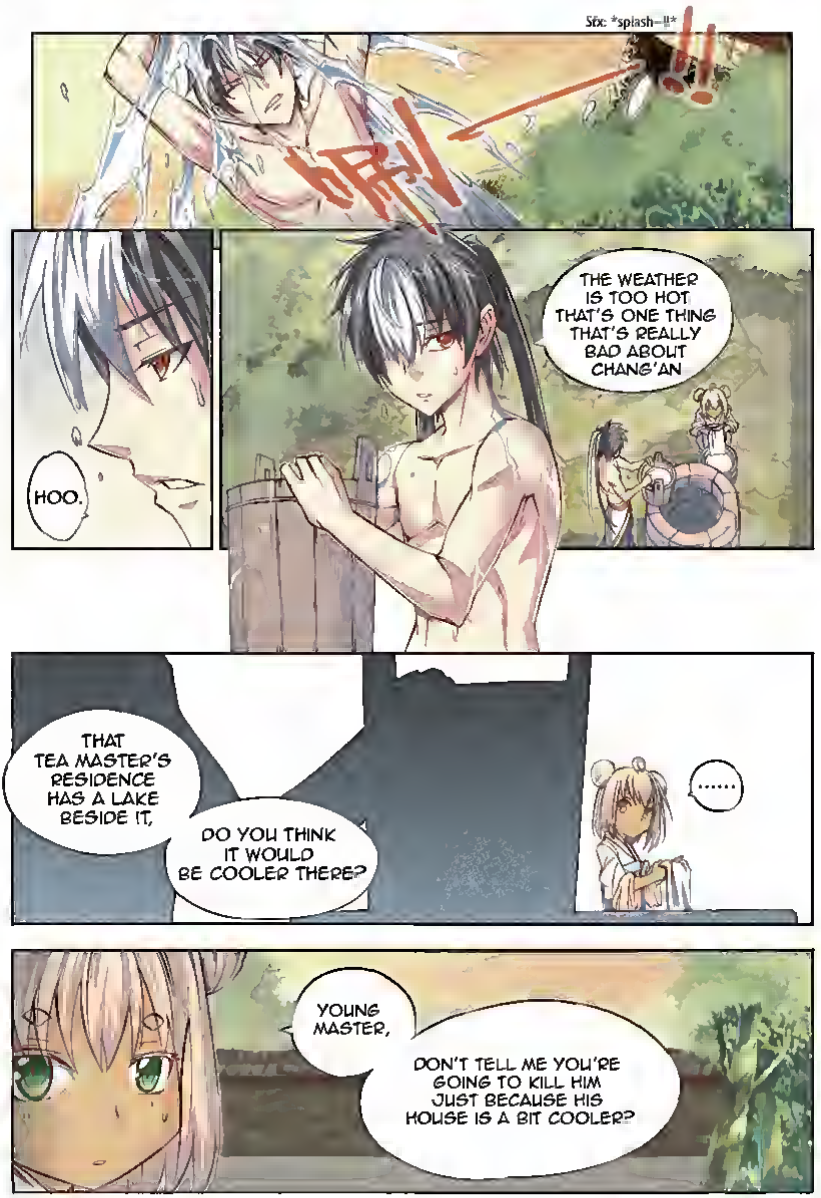
"AS SOMEONE FROM XILING, WHY DID YOU COME TO THE TANG EMPIRE TO STUDY?"
"I WAS BORN INTO A GREAT FAMILY IN XILING,"
"WITH A FAMILY BUSINESS SO BIG THAT IT'S BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION."
"A GENIUS LIKE ME,"
"WAS DESTINED FROM BIRTH TO SUCCEED THE FAMILY BUSINESS."

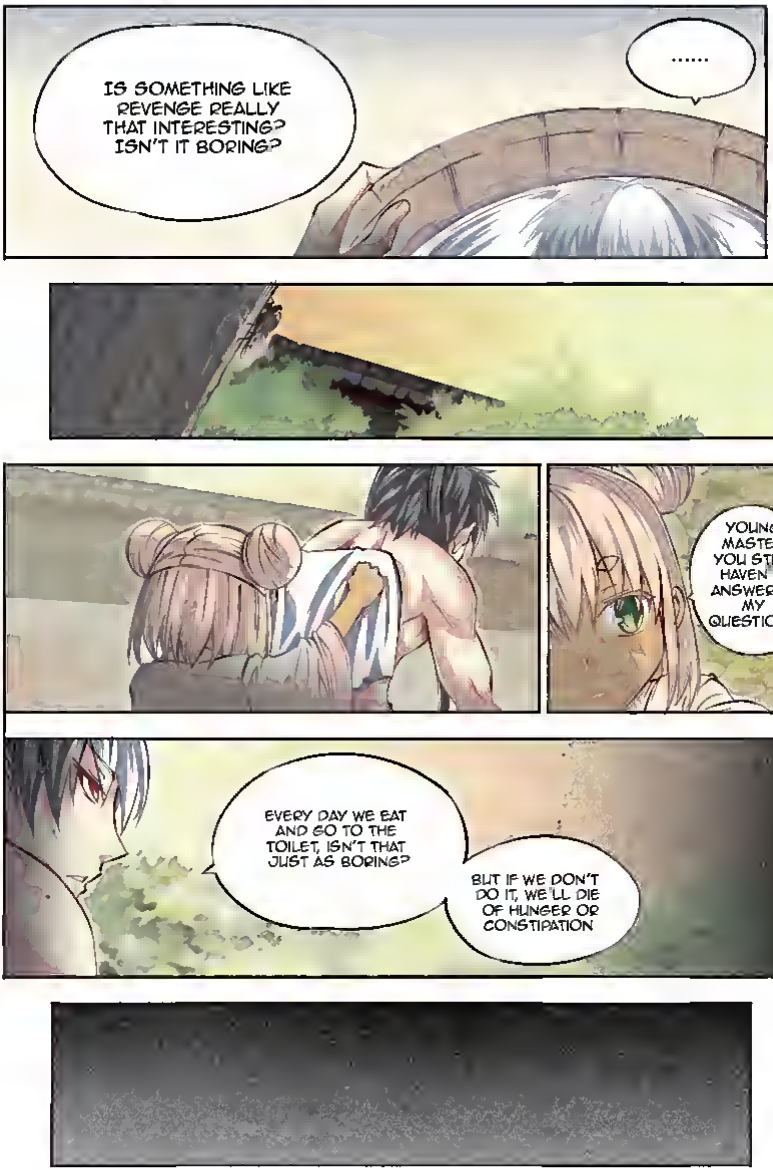

"BUT I HAD A BROTHER WHO WAS ALSO A GENIUS, ONLY SLIGHTLY WEAKER THAN ME. HE WAS GOOD TO ME, AND HAD NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT MY BECOMING THE SUCCESSOR TO THE FAMILY BUSINESS."
"BUT I FELT THAT ELDER BROTHER WAS THE BEST PERSON TO SUCCEED THE FAMILY BUSINESS."
"THE MORE HE TREATED ME WELL,"
"THE WORSE I FELT."
"SO AT THE AGE OF 10, I LEFT IN SECRET."
"DIDN'T THE FAMILY ELDERS SEARCH FOR YOU?"

"OF COURSE THE ELDERS WOULDN'T ALLOW ME TO REJECT BEING THE SUCCESSOR, AND NATURALLY, SEARCHED FOR ME EVERYWHERE."
"BUT THEY COULDN'T FIND ME, AND COULD ONLY GUESS THAT I WAS IN THE ACADEMY."
"WHAT ABOUT YOU?"
.....
"WHY DID YOU ENTER THE ACADEMY? ALSO, WHY WERE YOU SO WILLING TO RISK YOUR LIFE PREVIOUSLY?"
"IN ENTERING THE ACADEMY, THE DESIRE WOULD NATURALLY BE TO BECOME AN IMPERIAL OFFICIAL, AND EVEN MORE SO TO BECOME A PRACTITIONER."
"AS TO WHY I WAS WILLING TO RISK MY LIFE?"
"BECAUSE IF I DON'T, I MAY LOSE MY LIFE IN THE FUTURE!"



Sign "Old Brush House"

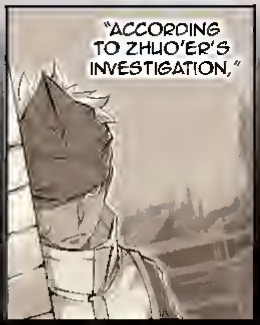

Sfx: *splash—!!*
DRIP
HOO.
THE WEATHER IS TOO HOT THAT'S ONE THING THAT'S REALLY BAD ABOUT CHANG'AN
THAT TEA MASTER'S RESIDENCE HAS A LAKE BESIDE IT,
DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE COOLER THERE?
.....
YOUNG MASTER,
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO KILL HIM JUST BECAUSE HIS HOUSE IS A BIT COOLER?


IS SOMETHING LIKE REVENGE REALLY THAT INTERESTING? ISN'T IT BORING?
.....
YOUNG MASTER, YOU STILL HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY QUESTION
EVERY DAY WE EAT AND GO TO THE TOILET, ISN'T THAT JUST AS BORING?
BUT IF WE DON'T DO IT, WE'LL DIE OF HUNGER OR CONSTIPATION

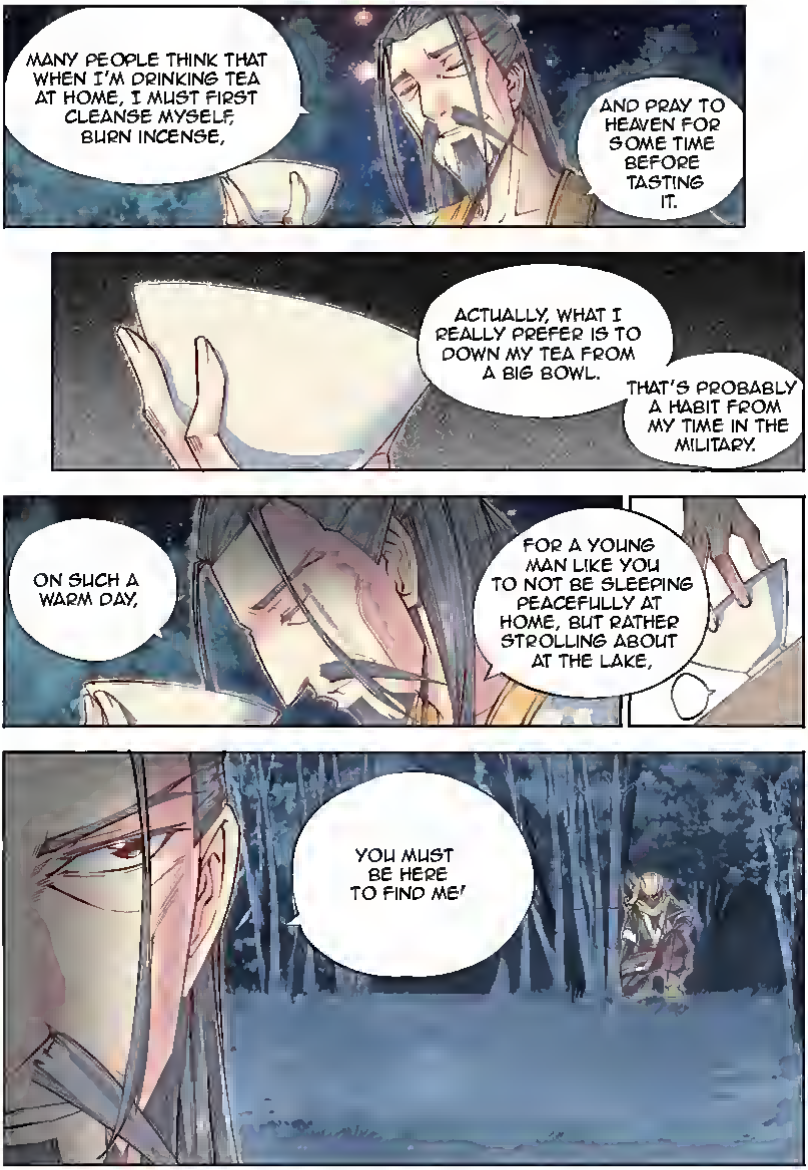
I...
WILL BE GOING THEN!
Swish--!!
.....

On paper "Military document appraiser"

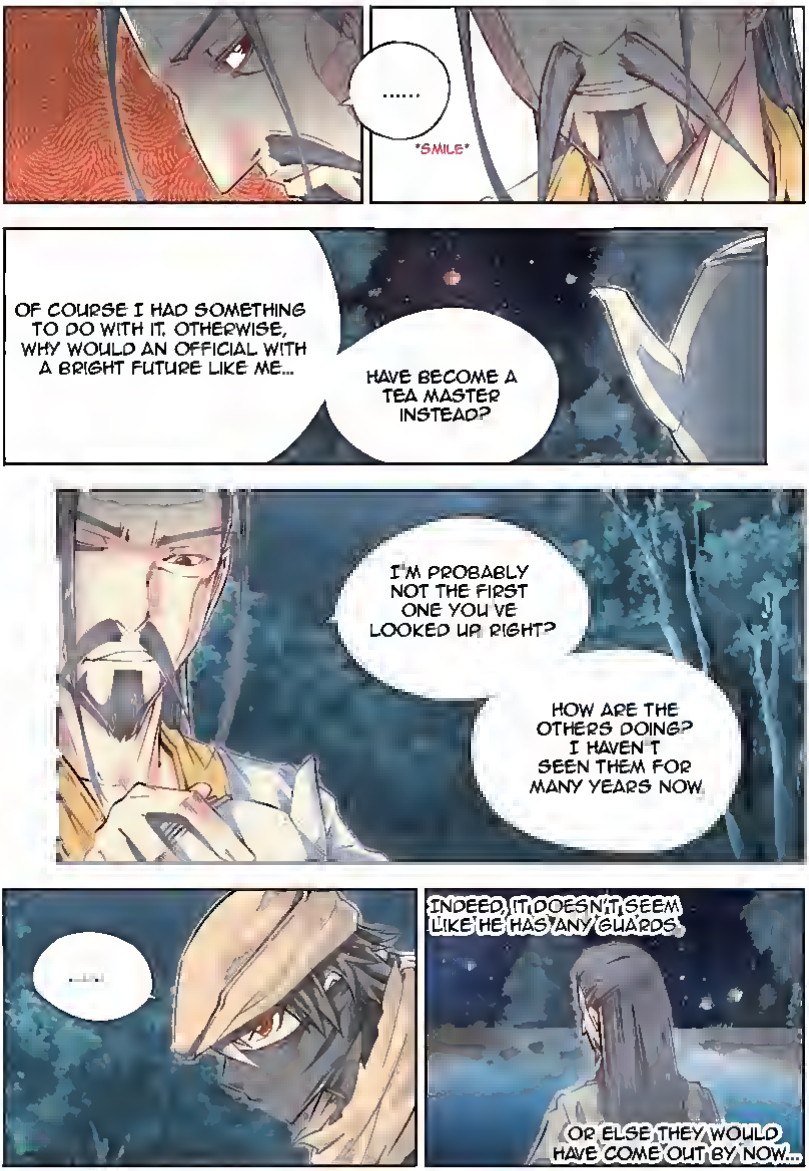
[Note the other 2 (crossed out) are the titles of the two officials that Ning Que has already killed]

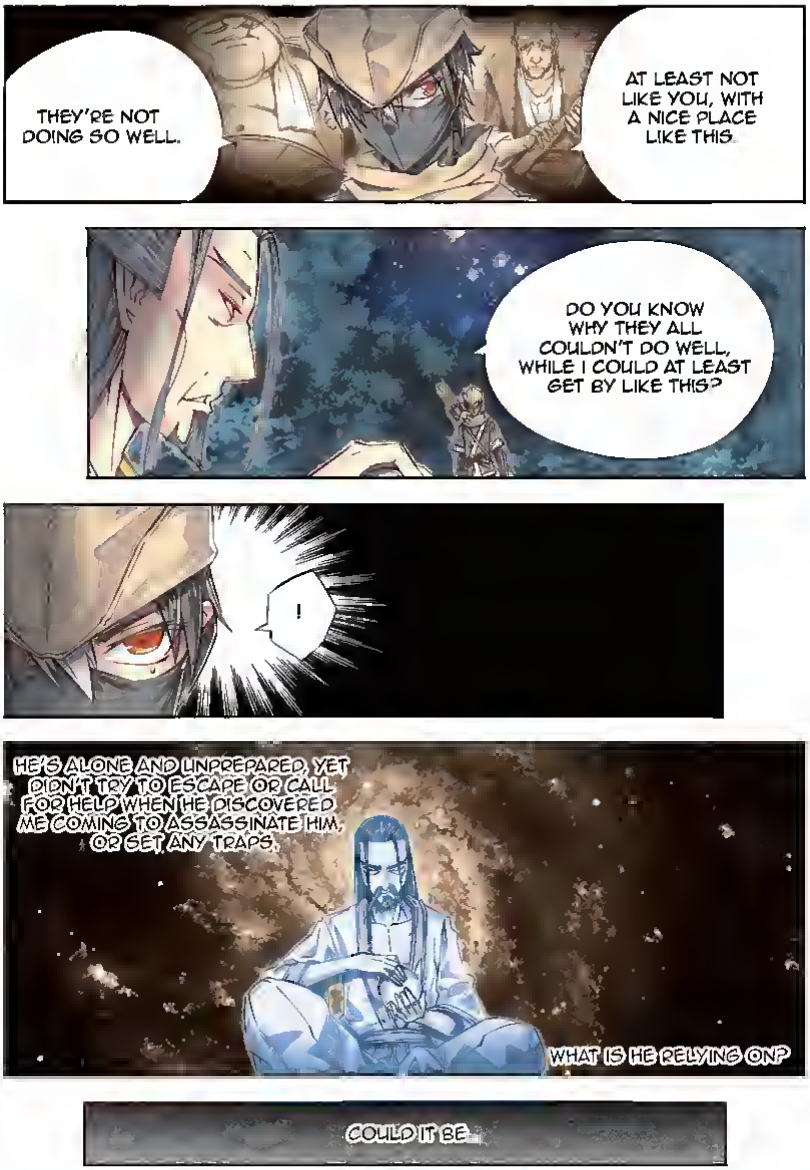


"THE THREE LETTERS USED AS EVIDENCE TO PROVE THE XUANWEI GENERAL'S TREASON..."
"...WERE ALL PERSONALLY VERIFIED BY THIS PERSON."
"FOR SOME REASON, DURING THE INCIDENT WHEN XIA HOU'S TROOPS FAILED TO ARRIVE ON TIME, AND MASSACRED THE VILLAGE,"
"HE WAS IN XIA HOU'S UNIT."


MANY PEOPLE THINK THAT WHEN I'M DRINKING TEA AT HOME, I MUST FIRST CLEANSE MYSELF, BURN INCENSE,
AND PRAY TO HEAVEN FOR SOME TIME BEFORE TASTING IT.
ACTUALLY, WHAT I REALLY PREFER IS TO DOWN MY TEA FROM A BIG BOWL.
THAT'S PROBABLY A HABIT FROM MY TIME IN THE MILITARY.
ON SUCH A WARM DAY,
FOR A YOUNG MAN LIKE YOU TO NOT BE SLEEPING PEACEFULLY AT HOME, BUT RATHER STROLLING ABOUT AT THE LAKE,
YOU MUST BE HERE TO FIND ME!

...
THIS PERSON'S DRESSING IS CASUAL, WITH A SKINNY AND WEAK-LOOKING PHYSIQUE.
WITH ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT OF TEA DREGS ON THE TABLE,
HE DOESN'T APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME FOR ME.
I WANT TO KNOW...
...WHETHER THE CASE WHERE ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE XUANWEI GENERAL'S FAMILY WERE ALL EXECUTED...
...AND THE CASE OF THE YAN MOUNTAIN VILLAGE MASSACRE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU?


.....
SMILE
OF COURSE I HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT. OTHERWISE, WHY WOULD AN OFFICIAL WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE LIKE ME...
HAVE BECOME A TEA MASTER INSTEAD?
I'M PROBABLY NOT THE FIRST ONE YOU'VE LOOKED UP, RIGHT?
HOW ARE THE OTHERS DOING? I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM FOR MANY YEARS NOW.
...Uh!
INDEED, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE HAS ANY GUARDS.
OR ELSE THEY WOULD HAVE COME OUT BY NOW...


THEY'RE NOT DOING SO WELL.
AT LEAST NOT LIKE YOU, WITH A NICE PLACE LIKE THIS.
DO YOU KNOW WHY THEY ALL COULDN'T DO WELL, WHILE I COULD AT LEAST GET BY LIKE THIS?
!
HE'S ALONE AND UNPREPARED, YET DIDN'T TRY TO ESCAPE OR CALL FOR HELP WHEN HE DISCOVERED ME COMING TO ASSASSINATE HIM, OR SET ANY TRAPS.
WHAT IS HE RELYING ON?
COULD IT BE

GRIP
YOU...
WHY AREN'T YOU FLEEING?
WHY SHOULD I FLEE?
SINCE I'M AWAKE.

HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY KILL ME?!
SHA--!!
A PRACTITIONER?!